

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 851

By Windle

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Tennessee Department of Correction Officer Wayne "Cotton" Morgan of Wartburg.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their own concerns to ensure our collective freedom and personal safety, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, in providing for the domestic tranquility of the community as a whole, society recognizes the need for a system of laws; the enforcement of the law has been entrusted to a small number of dedicated individuals who daily face the rigors of human conflict in protecting those whom they so selflessly serve; and

WHEREAS, the people of Tennessee are indeed fortunate to be served by the brave and dedicated law enforcement officials who put their lives on the line while carrying out their essential duties; and

WHEREAS, Officer Wayne "Cotton" Morgan of the Tennessee Department of Correction was one such outstanding public servant; citizens across the state and the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of his tragic and untimely death in the line of duty on August 9, 2005; and

WHEREAS, born in Wartburg, Wayne Morgan was raised on his family's 28-acre farm and graduated from Central High School in 1966; and

WHEREAS, continuing Tennessee's proud tradition of volunteerism, Wayne Morgan was awarded the Purple Heart for injuries he suffered while valiantly serving his country in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Officer Morgan served with acumen and dedication throughout his 27 years as a correctional officer at the Brushy Mountain Correctional Complex in Petros, earning the respect and admiration of prison officials and his fellow officers and the grateful appreciation of all Tennesseans for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, a great tragedy befell the State of Tennessee on the fateful day of August 9, 2005, when Officer Morgan was mortally wounded while delivering a prisoner from Brushy Mountain's higher security facility in Petros to the Roane County Courthouse; and

WHEREAS, a trusted member of his community, Officer Morgan regarded his work as a correctional officer to be of the utmost significance; his loyalty and commitment to justice and public safety never diminished throughout his many years of service to his community and this State; and

WHEREAS, Officer Morgan was an active and devout member of the Meadowview Baptist Church in Wartburg, which he served faithfully for many years as both deacon and a member of the choir; and

WHEREAS, Cotton Morgan was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Cotton Morgan enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Viann Bunch Morgan; son, Dennis Wayne Morgan; daughter, Carla Sue Keeton and her husband, Tracy; and his treasured grandchildren, Cole and Halie; and

WHEREAS, Wayne "Cotton" Morgan is survived by his beloved mother, Cordia; brothers, John and his wife, Rita Morgan, James and his wife, Terrie Morgan, and J.C. and his wife, Sandra Morgan; and sisters, Rose Rickers, Genevieve Morgan, Wilma and her husband, Jack Riley, Yvonne Turner, and Gail and her husband, Jimmy Burgess; and

WHEREAS, Officer Morgan leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity, probity, and valor in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this General Assembly should join all Tennesseans in remembering the bountiful life of this courageous officer, dutiful public servant, and exceptional

human being who made the ultimate sacrifice while protecting his community and fellow citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Officer Wayne "Cotton" Morgan, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character as a Christian, unquestionable valor as a correctional officer, and stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Morgan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.